



Wallingford Public Schools  
Special Education Department  
100 South Turnpike Road, Wallingford CT 06492  
(203) 294-5946

Aimee Turner, Assistant Superintendent  
Lisa Baker, Secondary Coordinator  
Stacy Kozlowski, Elementary Coordinator

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To: Honorable Members of the Education Committee

From: Aimee Turner, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education

Date: March 13, 2023

Re: Senate Bill No. 1201

Wallingford Public Schools has twenty-one students who currently attend ACES schools due to significant behavioral, mental health, physical, medical and/or developmental needs. ACES provides a level of programming for our students which we are unable to safely provide in our public school setting.

Programming includes specialized small group and individual instruction, expansive vocational opportunities and critical services for medically fragile students. The last six years have been a challenging one for us in Wallingford. We have experienced a large increase in students within our community with significant needs which cannot be provided in a public school setting. In addition to an increase in the severity of disabilities our students have, three years ago the state changed the eligibility age to 22 from 21. As a result of both factors, we are struggling to locate therapeutic schools that have the space to accommodate the number of students who require the specialized setting. Districts and families are out of options when it comes to where to turn when the public district is not the least restrictive environment.

Moreover, the project at Bassett Road would provide our District the opportunity to keep Wallingford residents close to the community which is critical when engaging with families, providing vocational training and maintaining links to the community.

Please let us know if there is any information I can provide to further explain the critical importance of ACES having the ability to expand the availability of services to our students with the most significant needs by emailing me at [aturner@wallingfordschools.org](mailto:aturner@wallingfordschools.org) or calling me at (203) 294-5946.

Sincerely,

Aimee Turner  
Assistant Superintendent of Special Education  
Wallingford Public Schools